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the book in the Jewish and Christian churches; and a discussion of the original language in which it was written, together with a comparison of the various manuscripts and versions.

THE CONSTRUCTIVE QUARTERLY. A journal of faith, work and thought of Christendom. Edited by Silas McBee. New York: George H. Doran Company. Vol. I, Nos. 1, 2, and 3. \$2.50 yearly; 75 cents the copy Issued in March, June, September, and December.

In the first issue the editorial policy is set forth as follows: "This Journal has been founded in the conviction that a constructive treatment of Christianity will make for a better understanding between the isolated Communion of Christendom. It is not neutral territory that is sought . . . but rather common ground where loyalty to Christ and to convictions about Him and His Church will be secure from the tendency to mere compromise or to superficial comprehension. This journal is and must be unofficial. The Churches are not and in the nature of things cannot make themselves responsible for it."

The editor's experience with the *Churchman* and the unusual opportunity afforded him on his recent "eirenic itinerary" to become acquainted with leading scholars and theologians throughout Europe and the Orient have rendered him peculiarly fit for the ambitious and difficult task he has undertaken. From America, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Russia, Great Britain, India, and the Orient, he has enlisted for his Editorial Board the services of fifty select men whose reputation is world-wide. That they have responded generously to the call of the editor is clear from the representative character of the contributors and articles in these first three issues. In looking over some of the articles one is impressed with the spirit of goodfellowship and liberality exhibited by all contributors alike and with the earnest desire expressed by them to bring about a better understanding among the various sects and religions of the world; and inspired by their views, one is even led to hope that in the history of mankind before the lapse of many generations religious persecution will become a thing of the past. "The merit of the *Constructive* is exceedingly great," declares Archbishop Platon in his article on Unity in the September issue, "since it has succeeded

in gathering together before the same speaking tube, as it were, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants, and has also succeeded in persuading them to speak through this tube."

TWENTY CENTURIES OF PARIS. By Mabell S. C. Smith. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co.

The author has condensed into some 400 pages a great deal of useful information, for the most part well arranged and admirably presented. The early history of Paris—that is, through the reign of Henry IV—is especially well treated and shows a thorough knowledge of early Parisian histories, notably of the collection in the Bibliothèque Nationale, from which alone a very complete history of both secular and parochial Paris could be written. From the accession of Louis XIII the author has been rather careless and hurried in places, so that the last half has somewhat the tone of a Baedeker. Though uneven, the book furnishes for both tourist and student material of interest and value, and is worthy of a place among the best popular histories of Paris.

J. N. W.

VAN CLEVE AND HIS FRIENDS. By Mary S. Watts. New York: The Macmillan Company.

At a time when the sensational and the problematic run riot in novel-making, it is comforting to find a new novel which is neither, a novel which is sound in its ethics and wholesome in its atmosphere and yet reveals real life in its true values. Such a novel is Mrs. Mary S. Watts's *Van Cleve and His Friends*, which appeared serially during the year in the *Atlantic Monthly* and which has recently been published in book form. Mrs. Watts gives her readers a picture of contemporary business and social life in Cincinnati and a very unglossed account of one phase of the Spanish-American War—that busy life which is incident to the fighting, but which takes place at a safe distance from the guns. The book does not depend for its interest upon intricacy of plot: for it is lacking in dramatic effect. In fact, from the moment the climax is reached the *dénouement* is apparent.